

From Page	To Page	Other Page

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## In our opinion:

### A flop spells some lessons - for Kennedy and Nikita

Generally speaking, on the world scene the face of the United States is rather red today.

A U. S. decision to back an invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro rebels put the U. S. plainly behind the effort. When the invasion fell flat, in the face of stronger and better organized Soviet-backed Castro forces, the prestige of the U. S. took a belly whopper around the globe.

"There are from this sobering episode useful lessons for all to learn," President Kennedy told American newspaper editors Thursday.

One of the main learners can be youthful President Kennedy himself, who made the decision to back the Cuban rebels although Secretary of State Dean Rusk and other high officials had serious misgivings.

It's understood the President accepted the advice of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said a landing in Cuba by anti-Castro forces was militarily sound. But the advisers apparently counted heavily on a belief that many people in Cuba would revolt and join up with the in-

vaders. This didn't happen.

Observers report that the original U. S. idea was to use American troops along with anti-Castro Cubans in a secret invasion. Then it was said the U. S. backed away from use of its own troops when so much pre-invasion publicity developed.

The U. S. did not, however, back away from giving money, equipment, advice and training to the invaders, observers say. This means that U. S. prestige was riding on the attempt.

Apparently, there was a failure at the top to consider the position the U. S. would be in if the invasion flopped — as it did.

President Kennedy certainly must have learned that the U. S. ought not to send a boy to do a man's job. But there is a lesson in the incident for the Soviets' Nikita Khrushchev, too.

Nikita must now be aware that the new U. S. administration is thinking more in terms of action than the Eisenhower administration did. And he can count on the fact that any future action on our part will be better thought through.